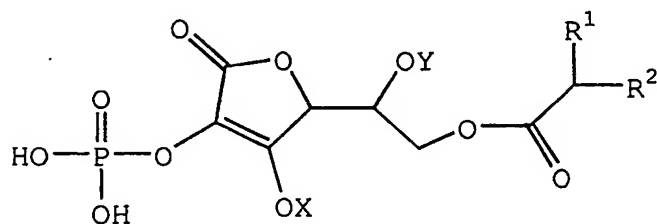


CLAIMS

1. An ascorbic acid derivative, which is a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or a salt thereof:

5 [Chemical Formula 9]



(1)

10 (wherein X and Y each represents H or a protective group for OH, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 19 carbon atoms, which may be linear or branched, and the total number of carbon atoms in R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is an integer of 5 to 22).

15 2. The ascorbic acid derivative according to claim 1, which is a salt with one or more metal selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, aluminum, iron, zinc and bismuth.

20 3. The ascorbic acid derivative according to claim 1, which is a salt with ammonia, monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, dicyclohexylamine or 2-amino-1-methylpropanol.

25 4. The ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the total number of carbon atoms in R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> of the general formula (1) is an integer of 8 to 18.

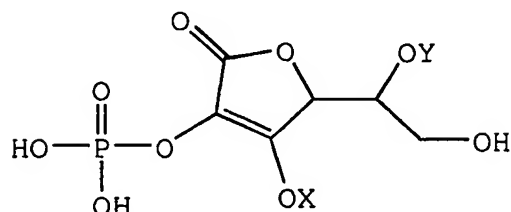
5. The ascorbic acid derivative according to claim 4, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> of the general formula (1) are a linear alkyl group, and the total number of carbon atoms in the linear alkyl groups of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is 14 or 16.

30 6. The ascorbic acid derivative according to claim 5, wherein in the general formula (1), R<sup>1</sup> is n-C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>19</sub>, and R<sup>2</sup> is n-C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>15</sub>; or R<sup>1</sup> is n-C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>17</sub>, and R<sup>2</sup> is n-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>.

7. A process for producing an ascorbic acid

derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6,  
comprising a step of reacting a compound represented by  
the following general formula (2) and/or a salt thereof:  
[Chemical Formula 10]

5



(2)

(wherein X and Y each represents H or a protective group  
for OH), with at least one selected from fatty acid,  
10 fatty acid salt, fatty acid ester, fatty acid halide,  
and/or fatty acid anhydride.

8. The process for producing an ascorbic acid  
derivative according to claim 7, wherein the reaction is  
performed in the presence of a condensing agent and/or  
15 dehydrating agent.

9. The process for producing an ascorbic acid  
derivative according to claim 8, wherein the dehydrating  
agent is sulfuric acid.

10. The process for producing an ascorbic acid  
20 derivative according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein  
the reaction is conducted in a solvent selected from the  
group consisting of: water, acetone, dioxane, toluene,  
ethylbenzene, methyl-tert-butyl ether and sulfuric acid.

11. A vitamin C preparation comprising the ascorbic  
25 acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6 as  
an effective ingredient.

12. A collagen production accelerator comprising  
the ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of  
claims 1 to 6 as an effective ingredient.

30 13. A whitening preparation comprising the ascorbic  
acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6 as  
an effective ingredient.

14. A skin preparation for external use, comprising

the ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6 as an effective ingredient.

15        15. The skin preparation for external use according to claim 14, which contains an ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester and/or a salt thereof.

16. The skin preparation for external use according to claim 14, which contains sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt or zinc salt of the ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester.

10        17. A cosmetic material comprising the skin preparation for external use according to any one of claim 14 to 16.

15        18. A composition comprising the ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6, in the form of a medical or pharmaceutical preparation, an agrochemical preparation or an animal drug preparation.

19. A composition comprising the ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6, in the form of a food or feed additive.